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SOURCE Vneshnyaya Torgoviya.A RESUME OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS IN ALBANIAK. Viryasov  
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In January 1952, the Albanian people marked the sixth anniversary of the declaration of the People's Republic of Albania with enormous political and labor improvement. The years since the founding of the republic have been years of a successful struggle on the part of the Albanian people to strengthen the popular democratic system and build the bases of socialism.

The People's Republic of Albania, using the powerful support of the camp of democracy and socialism headed by the Soviet Union, is successfully following the path that leads to the building of a people's democratic state, the path to independent development of economy and culture.

The most important factor in improving Albanian economy was the successful fulfillment of the Two-Year Plan for the development of the country's national economy for 1949 and 1950. Despite the great destruction caused by the war, the volume of industrial production at the end of the Two-Year Plan surpassed the prewar level considerably. In 1950, it increased more than 3.7 times in the mining industry and more than three times in manufacturing. The following table shows the production increase in the third quarter of 1951 compared with the same period in 1950:

	Percent		Percent
Electric power	130	Brick and tile	142
Petroleum industry	108	Textile industry	159
Bitumen	106	Tanning industry	140
Coal	114	Footwear industry	140
Cement	107	Soap and oil industry	242

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The results achieved in 1951 are evidence of the fact that Albanian industry has gained new successes. Production in the third quarter of 1951 increased 31.4 percent in comparison with the corresponding period in 1950.

The plan for construction works in the third quarter of 1951 was fulfilled 105 percent. The volume of work increased 47 percent in comparison with the third quarter of 1950.

In 1951, enterprises important to the national economy, such as a cotton gin, the Lenin Hydroelectric Station, a sugar refinery with a productivity of 10,000 tons of sugar per year, and the Stalin Textile Combine with a productivity of 20 million meters of cotton cloth per year, were put into operation. In beginning the operation of the sugar refinery and the textile combine, the country's need for sugar and cotton cloth will be completely met by its own production. The equipment for the above-mentioned enterprises was supplied by the Soviet Union, which also gave Albania the necessary help in assembling the equipment and putting it into operation.

The young republic has made considerable progress in agriculture. The total cultivated area in 1950 surpassed the prewar level more than 1.5 times, and the area sown to industrial crops surpassed the prewar level 11 times. The grain yield surpassed the prewar level almost 40 percent. The yield of sugar beets and cotton increased considerably. In 1951, the sugar beet yield amounted on the average to about 200 centners per hectare; the cotton yield on many farms reached 20 centners per hectare.

Much attention has been given to cattle raising. As a result of the fulfillment of the Two-Year Plan, the number of head of cattle not only reached the prewar level, but actually surpassed it. At the end of 1950, the number of head of cattle increased 7 percent and sheep, 9 percent in comparison with 1938.

The government of Albania is giving aid to agriculture from many directions. In the postwar period, agriculture received tens of thousands of tons of the best seeds for grain and industrial crops, 3 million fruit trees, and a considerable amount of mineral fertilizers. More than 672 million leks were spent for reclamation works, making it possible for over 43,000 hectares of land to be irrigated. The amount of credit given to the peasant farms came to 157 million leks at the end of 1950. The peasant farms were extended credit in the amount of 39 million leks for the 1951 fall sowing and the 1952 spring sowing.

In March 1951, the Council of Ministers and Central Committee of the Albanian Workers' Party adopted a decree for a Five-Year Plan for planting forests in Albania. The fulfillment of this plan will create conditions for increasing the yield of agricultural crops and for the encouragement of cattle raising.

An important factor in the matter of developing agriculture and of increasing the mechanization of agricultural works is the organization of machine-tractor stations. The number of tractors in 1951 increased 3.6 times in comparison with 1947. The state is giving much support toward the development of agriculture by supplying modern agricultural machines. In 1950 - 1951, a total of 3,000 plows, 900 cultivators, 300 mowers, and many other agricultural machines and implements were sent to the regions where industrial crops are raised. The use of the machines not only lightened the peasants' labor but also caused a considerable increase in the yield of agricultural crops.

The country's agricultural production cooperatives are increasing in number and growing stronger. The results achieved by the cooperative farms in the yield of agricultural crops and in the productivity of cattle raising are

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considerably higher than in the individual peasant farms. At present, the Albanian Workers' Party has been given the task of the further organizational and economic strengthening of the agricultural production cooperatives.

The socialized sector of domestic trade is expanding steadily. In 1948, the share of state and cooperative trade in the retail trade turnover of the country amounted to 57 percent; in 1950, it increased to 78 percent. The turnover of state and cooperative trade increased almost two times in 1950 in comparison with 1948. In 1951, a further growth of trade turnover took place. The total trade turnover in the third quarter of 1951 amounted to 103.5 percent in comparison with the corresponding period in 1950.

Albania has had much success, too, in the attempt to strengthen its financial system. The state budget for 1951 provided an income for the republic in the amount of 9,500,000,000 leks, 12 percent more than in 1950, and expenditures to the amount of 9,100,000,000 leks. The chief source of the state budget income is the socialist sector of the economy. The expenditures for financing the national economy reached 3,607,000,000 leks or two fifths of the state budget funds, as against 2,252,000,000 leks in 1950 or one third of the expenditures of the state budget. In addition to the above-mentioned sum, the enterprises spent an additional 234 million leks from their own resources for capital construction. The expenditures for social-cultural measures amounted to 600 million leks or 39 percent more than in 1950.

Of great significance for the successful development of the national economy of Albania was the mass labor competition in both industry and agriculture. An important factor in the fulfillment of production plans and reduction of the cost of products was the use of the experience of Soviet production innovators. The creative initiative of the workers was given great scope. The use of new inventions made it possible for the country to save 30 million leks in the third quarter of 1951 alone. In agriculture, competition was developed to increase the yield of agricultural crops and the productivity of cattle raising on the basis of the achievements of the avant garde of Soviet agriculture.

As a result of the improvement of the national economy, the material life of the workers was bettered and their cultural level was raised. From year to year, the people are getting more consumers' goods. The prices for basic foods such as bread, meat, olive oil, macaroni, eggs, cheese, etc., have gone down substantially. In conjunction with putting the Lenin Hydroelectric Station into operation on 1 November 1951, the rates for electric power throughout the republic have been reduced 18.2 percent, and for water in Tirana, 28.5 percent. The appropriations for education, public health, and housing are increasing. Illiteracy is being successfully eliminated; today, elementary education is compulsory. Polytechnical, pedagogic, and agricultural institutes, the first higher educational institutions in Albania, have been opened. By decree of the Presidium of the National Assembly, annual prizes in the name of the republic have been instituted for outstanding work in the fields of science, invention, literature, and art.

Close economic ties with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies are of decisive significance for the successful development of Albania's economy. The republic's foreign trade turnover is growing steadily. The trade agreements concluded by Albania in 1951 with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies provide for much further expansion of trade. The conclusion of long-term agreements will give Albania the chance to plan the development of the country's national economy successfully over a long period.

The agreement signed in February 1951 by Albania and the Soviet Union for supplying Albania with industrial equipment and technical aid on credit from 1951 to 1955, and the agreements on problems of trade turnover, provide for the development and strengthening of economic cooperation between both countries.

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The supplying of equipment on credit to large Albanian enterprises by the Soviet Union, according to agreements concluded, is a great contribution to the development of Albania's economy. Part of these enterprises have already been put into operation.

Albania's trade agreements with Poland on 25 January 1951 provided for industrial equipment and technical aid from Poland to Albania and the supplying of other Polish goods in the period from 1951 to 1955. In turn, Albania is sending Poland metal ores, raw bitumen, and other raw materials.

On 1 March 1951, Albania concluded a trade agreement with Czechoslovakia for 5 years and a trade agreement for 1951. On the basis of these agreements, Czechoslovakia is sending Albania machinery and equipment necessary for the development of Albanian industry. Albania is shipping various raw materials to Czechoslovak industry. At the same time, these countries signed an agreement for scientific and technical cooperation.

On 27 March 1951, Albania and the German Democratic Republic concluded a trade agreement for 1951 - 1955, on the basis of which the GDR is to supply Albania with industrial equipment and other goods.

Albania has trade agreements with other People's Democracies, including Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania.

The Albanian government is now working out a state plan for the development of the national economy for the period from 1951 to 1955. The directives for the Five-Year Plan, which were discussed at the Eleventh Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Albanian Workers' Party, provide for the creation of the bases for building socialism, an increase in the volume of industrial and agricultural production, and considerable improvement in the material situation of the workers.

The further development of the mining industry is planned, particularly an increase in the output of petroleum and raw bitumen, chromium ore, and coal. In the field of light industry, the directives provide for an increase in the production of mass consumers' goods on the basis of wide use of local raw materials for the sake of greatly reducing the import of these goods.

During the Five-Year Plan, petroleum refineries and metallurgical plants will be built, production procedures will be mechanized in the mining industry, and a cement plant, a wood-processing combine, a factory for curing tobacco, mills for cotton thread and woolen materials, and others will be built.

In the field of agriculture, the task has been set to increase the production of grain and industrial crops (cotton, sugar beets, tobacco) by expanding the sowing areas and raising the yield. A special plan has been worked out for the development of cattle raising.

The directives provide for the development of all kinds of transport with an eye to its being able to satisfy the country's growing need for shipping.

Special attention is being given to training personnel for all branches of the national economy.

The Five-Year Plan provides for a substantial increase in trade turnover with a systematic decrease in prices. This will lead to a further increase in the people's welfare and the elimination of the ration-card system. At the

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same time, much attention is being given to the development of culture. The network of schools will be extended and many special educational institutions will be created.

The successful fulfillment of the Two-Year Plan for the development of the national economy and the realization of the Five-Year Plan are opening wide vistas of economic development and creating a base for the building of socialism in Albania.

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